

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ( ISO ) R

DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM:VLEHOVICH:MMM

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S/S: MOFFAT

OSD/ISA: JANNUNZIATA

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P 272015Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 122747

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, BE, FR

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN DEFENSE PRODUCTION INITIATIVES AND

F-104 REPLACEMENT

REFS:A)STATE 119435; B)BRUSSELS 4526; C)USNATO 2789

1. SUBSEQUENT TO GUIDANCE IN STATE 119435, WE HAVE  
RECEIVED ACCOUNT OF PROPOSAL BELGIUM MADE MAY 20 AT LONDON  
WEU MINISTERIAL (REF B, BEING REPEATED). IN THIS PRO-  
POSAL, FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE CALLED FOR EXAMINATION  
OF EUROPEAN ARMS INDUSTRY IN THE CONTEXT OF CREATING A  
COMMON INDUSTRIAL POLICY FOR THE EC, AIMING FOR THE  
SECRET

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FORMATION OF A "EUROPEAN ARMAMENTS AGENCY" WHICH WOULD  
HAVE CLOSE LIAISON WITH THE EC AND NATO, AND WOULD SEEK  
TO DEFINE A COMMON INDUSTRIAL POLICY WITH RESPECT TO  
ARMAMENTS. AS A FIRST STEP IN THIS DIRECTION, BELGIUM

PROPOSED AN AD HOC GROUP WITHIN THE WEU. THE WEU  
AGREED TO STUDY THE BELGIAN PROPOSAL.

2. IN ANY DISCUSSIONS OF BELGIAN PROPOSAL WHICH MAY  
ARISE, OR IF FRENCH IDEAS ON "EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON SECURITY"  
SURFACE, POSTS MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING IN ADDITION TO  
GUIDANCE CONTAINED IN REF A.

--THE UNITED STATES, BASED UPON TREATY COMMITMENTS AND  
NATIONAL INTERESTS, IS DEEPLY INVOLVED IN EUROPEAN  
SECURITY. THE NAC, DPC AND THE NATO INTEGRATED  
MILITARY STRUCTURE ARE ACCORDINGLY THE APPROPRIATE  
FORUM IN WHICH TO DISCUSS "EUROPEAN" AND "NORTH AMERICAN"  
SECURITY ISSUES.

--WE DO NOT SEE HOW A "EUROPEAN COUNCIL FOR SECURITY"  
OR A WEU STUDY COMMITTEE WOULD ENCOMPASS THE INTERESTS  
OF ALLIES LIKE NORWAY, GREECE, OR TURKEY, OR HOW  
IT WOULD RELATE TO NEUTRAL IRELAND.

--MOREOVER, TIMING OF SUCH IDEAS RAISES DOUBTS ABOUT  
THE MOTIVES BEHIND THEM (CURRENT PRICE OFFER ON F-16  
EXPIRES MAY 31).

--ATTEMPTS TO FURTHER SEPARATE US AND EUROPEAN DEFENSE  
EFFORTS WOULD HAVE CHILLING EFFECT ON NOW PROMISING  
INDICATIONS OF GREATER COOPERATION IN COPRODUCTION AND  
RATIONALIZATION (I.E., THE TWO-WAY STREET IN DEFENSE).

3. ON F-104 ASPECTS, POSTS MAY ALSO NOTE:

----US PUBLIC OPINION WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDER-  
STAND PURCHASE "FOR EUROPEAN REASONS" OF HEAVILY  
SUBSIDIZED AIRCRAFT WHICH CONSORTIUM MODS, INCLUDING  
BELGIAN MOD, HAVE DETERMINED IS LESS EFFECTIVE THAN  
AMERICAN COMPETITOR.

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--PUBLICITY ABOUT SUCH A CHOICE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE  
NATO SUMMIT WOULD COMPOUND DAMAGING IMPACT ON US  
OPINION. INGERSOLL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 26 AUG 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY PROCUREMENT, MILITARY AIRCRAFT, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, ALLIANCE, COLLECTIVE SECURITY  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE122747  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** EUR/RPM:VLEHOVICH:MMM  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** 11652 GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** D750185-0321  
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**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 11 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <11 APR 2003 by Izenbel0>; APPROVED <25 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** n/a  
**TAGS:** MASS, BE, FR  
**To:** BRUSSELS  
NATO  
BONN  
COPENHAGEN  
LONDON  
LUXEMBOURG

OSLO  
ROME  
THE HAGUE

**Type:** TE

**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006